

# IITA Bulletin

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## News from NASA

### Note from the Project Manager

Mark León

[mleon@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:mleon@mail.arc.nasa.gov)

HPCC Learning Technologies intends to maintain a small RSD and DLT effort in out years. This will be manifested

by the continuation of the two project offices located at GSFC. The purpose of these activities will be to retain communication channels with the closing projects and to foster K-99 developments in the fields of RSD and DLT. Non-funded collaboration is encouraged to continue with the terminating grants and cooperative agreements through formal NASA agreements. Some out year funding might be available for some of these activities in FY99.

The development of the HPCC Learning Technologies Strategic Plan will decide the direction of the \$1.5 million budgeted for new projects in FY99. Discussions are in place at this time and it is possible that this funding may have a heavy aeronautics direction.

## News Bytes

### IITA 1997 Spring Conference Set for May 19-21; Projects Are Invited to Present

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As the plans for the Spring 1997 IITA Conference have evolved, the agenda has taken on a new look. The conference is scheduled for May 19-21 in Sunnyvale, California.

During the first day, after welcoming remarks, there will be a series of presentations on "Project Successes and How-Tos." These presentations will be given by projects which have succeeded in obtaining additional funding from sources other than IITA. It is expected, as IITA funding is diminishing, that this will be a popular topic for all attendees.

The remainder of the conference will feature a keynote speaker, a day of demos to industrial and commercial reviewers (who will present their conclusions in a panel discussion format), and meetings be-

tween groups with shared interests.

If you are interested in sharing your project successes on the first day of the conference, please respond with your name, project title, and a one-page summary of the material you would like to present to the conference in a thirty-minute presentation with fifteen minutes of Q&A.

Questions can be addressed to Susan Lee at [iitaconf@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:iitaconf@mail.arc.nasa.gov)

Goddard Space Flight Center, the National Library of Medicine, and the Library of Congress, in cooperation with Columbia University, George Washington University, the Rutgers University Center for Information Management, Integration, and Connectivity, the University of Maryland - Baltimore County, and the University of Texas at Austin.

### Call for Participation

Susan Hoban

[Susan.Hoban@gsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:Susan.Hoban@gsfc.nasa.gov)

The International Conference on the Advances in Digital Libraries will be held May 7-9, 1997, at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Persons or groups wishing to participate in the conference may complete a registration form, view an advance program, and learn hotel and contact information by visiting <http://cesdis.gsfc.nasa.gov/admin/adl97/adlcall.html>

The conference is sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, CESDIS, NASA

### NASA's "Exploring the Internet" CD-ROM

*Now Available for Only \$3.50  
Great Tool for Students, New Web  
Surfers*

Scott Gillespie

[sgillespie@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:sgillespie@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov)

If all the talk about the Web, the Net, and "dot com" has you curious, it's time to launch yourself into cyberspace — and NASA has the perfect tool for the beginning surfer.

NASA's "Exploring the Internet" CD-ROM is now available in the US for the

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# News Bytes (Cont.)

remarkably low price of \$3.50, which includes shipping and handling. (Prices outside the US are slightly higher. See below.)

The CD-ROM casts students and first-time adult users as Internet explorers, taking them on an exciting, futuristic journey through cyberspace in a souped-up Spanish galleon. New online explorers discover what the Net is, what it's used for, and learn how to navigate it.

NASA's "Exploring the Internet" is also fun. Throughout the cyberjourney you'll meet memorable characters who explain the wonders of the Internet through a fantastic display of color illustrations, video clips, 3-D animation, music, and wild sound effects.

In short, NASA's "Exploring the Internet" is the perfect tool for the student — or anyone — who wants to learn about the Internet in an entertaining way.

The CD-ROM was developed to bring the excitement of the Internet to your computer and showcase the vast resources NASA and others make available via the Web. It is minimally priced to make it available to the broadest possible audience.

To find out more about NASA's "Exploring the Internet," visit the CD-

ROM's Web site, located at <http://cdrom.ivv.nasa.gov>

To order, send a check or money order (in US dollars only), made payable to BDM, to:

BDM-RSPAC  
Attention: CD-ROM  
100 University Drive  
Fairmont, WV 26554

If you have questions or wish to place orders for multiple copies, the e-mail address is [cdrom@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:cdrom@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov). (Cost of the CD-ROM outside the US is \$3.60 in Canada, \$4.50 in Mexico, and \$6.50 in all other countries, in US dollars only.)

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## Add QuickTime Movies to Your Web Site

Eli White

[ewhite@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:ewhite@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov)

There are many services that RSPAC can provide. One of the capabilities that we have is to take a videotape and convert it into a QuickTime movie (.mov) file. This allows CATs to take any videos they might have lying around and post them

on the Web. This can be a great way to make a small instructional video, or a video a CAT may have on another interesting topic, widely available.

Please note, though, that any video you may be thinking about turning into a QuickTime movie should be rather small, or you should only do a section of it. If it is too large, the file that RSPAC will create for you will take too long to download over a modem.

If you'd like more information on adding QuickTime movies to your site, e-mail me at the address listed above.

This bulletin will also be available on the Developers' Workshop Web site at: <http://developers.ivv.nasa.gov/collab/pubs/bulletin/>.

### Please note:

The March 1997 edition of IITA Bulletin is the first produced using Adobe Acrobat software. Persons who read the IITA Bulletin via the Developers' Workshop Web site might need to download Adobe Acrobat prior to use. To download the software, visit <http://www.adobe.com/acrobat>

# CAT in the Spotlight

## "Shuttle Team Online" Launched — Looks at NASA Behind-the-Scenes & Lets Students Interact via the Web

Marc Siegel

[marc@quest.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:marc@quest.arc.nasa.gov)

An exciting NASA Learning Technologies project called "Shuttle Team Online" was recently launched. The project is designed mainly for pre-college classrooms, but everyone is welcome and many adults should find the unique perspective interesting.

Shuttle Team Online will be active from March through May of 1997. The project will join the men and women who make the space shuttle fly, and will allow users to learn about their diverse and exciting careers. It will provide a behind-the-scenes look at these folks as they train astronauts, prepare the shuttle between missions, launch the shuttle, successfully execute the mission from Mission Control, and safely land the shuttle. The focus will be on STS-83, a sixteen-day microgravity lab scheduled for launch April 3, 1997.

This project will provide lots of opportunities to interact with these enthusiastic people. E-mail exchange will be encouraged and there will be frequent live network events, including WebChats and CU-SeeMe sessions.

Curriculum supplements about fly-

ing rockets and microgravity experiments will be available to help teachers incorporate the lessons of the shuttle into their classrooms. Shuttle Team Online will also host teacher discussion areas to encourage like-minded educators to share good ideas and support one another. Student-to-student interactions will be facilitated through space shuttle simulations. Finally, an area on the Web will be reserved to display student work related to the shuttle.

If you are interested in Shuttle Team Online, please consider joining the mail list. It will be the best way to stay up-to-date as the project develops. To join, send an e-mail to:

[listmanager@quest.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:listmanager@quest.arc.nasa.gov)

In the message body, write exactly these words: subscribe updates-sto.

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# Nothin' — but Net

## Navigation — The Long Way

### Home

Linda McClung

[lmcclung@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:lmcclung@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov)

Whether you rely on a sidebar with selected links to major sections, imagemaps, icons that appear as buttons, or simple images to lead visitors through your site, much thought should be applied to making the trip as easy and consistent as possible.

Sketching a map of your site makes it simpler to visualize its overall structure. At this stage in the design, you should be able to make decisions about how a visitor might enter your site, the major sections found there (and what visitors might be looking for), and how you might lead visitors through it.

## Cool — Links

### Cool Space Science Site

Sig Kutter

[skutter@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:skutter@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov)

The big space science event of March will be the visit of comet Hale-Bopp, which will make its closest approach to the Sun on April 1. At that time it will be a mere 0.9 astronomical units from the Sun. Throughout March, the comet will grow in brightness and, although it's difficult to predict just how bright it will become, will probably outshine all celestial objects except the Sun and the Moon. Two excellent Web sites on comet Hale-Bopp and good starting points for further browsing have been developed by scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). They are located at <http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/comet/> and [http://encke.jpl.nasa.gov/hale\\_bopp\\_info.html](http://encke.jpl.nasa.gov/hale_bopp_info.html)

NASA's Observatorium featured comet Hale-Bopp in its Observation of the

Some of the questions you should ask yourself about navigation are:

1. Can visitors easily get from one section to another and back again?
2. Will you provide a simple way for visitors to go from one section to another within the site, or will you always lead them to a single navigational page?
3. Can visitors easily exit? (Yes, you want to keep your visitors there, but you don't want to hold them hostage. If they become confused about exiting, they may be hesitant about entering again.)
4. Will the visitors know when they've seen everything there is to be seen?
5. Can visitors tell what's new so that they will want to check out that element regularly?

Week of February 26. This article can now be found at <http://observe.ivv.nasa.gov/observe/oott/prev/1997/ob970226.html>. There you'll find a comet-finding chart and additional links to comet Web pages.

### Cool Earth Science Site

Joe Gardner

[jgardner@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov](mailto:jgardner@rspac.ivv.nasa.gov)

The US Geological Survey (USGS) Registry of Internet Science Resources is featured as March's "Cool Earth Science Site."

The US Geological Survey maintains a registry of Internet science resources at <http://www.usgs.gov/network/science/index.html>. This service has several major top-level links to other USGS pages, including Geology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Water, Mapping, and Computer Science. The first major links from the science resources page take you to an Index of USGS Servers, followed by USGS by Theme.

The USGS has identified four principal theme areas — Hazards, Natural Resources, Environment, and Information

6. Can visitors easily tell whether they have seen a particular section before?

Taking the time to consider these questions and their answers will help you create a site that is simple for your viewers to navigate and simple for you to maintain.

## CAT in the — Spotlight (Cont.)

Also visit our Web site at <http://quest.arc.nasa.gov/shuttle>. We hope that Shuttle Team Online will prove to be an exciting learning resource for classrooms. We think it will be a great ride.

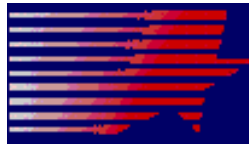
Management — to more effectively communicate how USGS Earth science information contributes to public policy issues. Links from just these two pages provide a wealth of information to the researcher; especially if links to non-USGS resources are added in. This is a great site for someone looking for Earth and environmental information on the Internet.

### Cool Aeronautics Site

Lee Duke

[duke@louie.dfrc.nasa.gov](mailto:duke@louie.dfrc.nasa.gov)

The cool aeronautics site for March is at the Air Force Flight Test Center (AFFTC) at Edwards, CA. The site is located at <http://www.elan.af.mil/>. This site includes photographs of some very cool aircraft that have flown at Edwards, a history of the AFFTC, and pilot biographies. While the photo gallery is not as complete as one might prefer, there are still some very interesting photos and some very good information.



The IITA Bulletin is a publication of the NASA Remote Sensing Public Access Center (RSPAC). RSPAC is a cooperative project of the Information Infrastructure Technology and Applications (IITA) project of the Office of Aeronautics' NASA High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) program, BDM Federal, and West Virginia University. RSPAC is located at the NASA Software Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) facility in Fairmont, West Virginia.

RSPAC/BDM  
WVU/NASA IV&V Facility  
100 University Drive  
Fairmont, WV 26554

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